

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

These remarks are made in response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 30, 2008. The response is timely filed within the one-month shortened statutory period, and, as such, no fee is believed due.

The Restriction Requirement requires election of one of the following groupings:

Group I: Claims 1-9, drawn to software architecture.

Group II: Claims 10-16, drawn to a system for conducting electronic commerce.

Group III: Claims 17-22, drawn to a system for conducting electronic commerce transactions.

Group IV: Claims 23-33, drawn to a method for conducting electronic commerce transactions.

Applicants hereby submit a provisional election of the Group IV claims (Claims 23-33) with traverse on the ground that the inventions as listed above are interrelated and thus not independent or distinct. Accordingly, Applicants hereby withdraw from consideration Claims 1-22 in order to comply with the Restriction Requirement and expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants respectfully assert, however, that the withdrawal of these claims is not to be construed as a surrender of any subject matter in the instant application, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue protection for the subject matter of the withdrawn claims in one or more divisional patent applications. Newly added claims 34-38 depend from claim 33 and should be included in group IV.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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